expenditure showed a marginal decline in 1986-87 as compared to the last year. It has declined from 54.5 per cent in 1985-86 to 54.2 per cent in 1986-87. This marginal decline is reflected in the decline in the share of (i) cereals pulses and bread, (ii) milk and milk products and (iii) other food.

(c) Details of consumption expenditure for the current year are not available.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Generally as the per capita consumption expenditure increases, proportion of food in consumption expenditure declines. The planning strategy of the Government aims at raising the per capita consumption expenditure of the people.

Purchase of salt by NDDB

3360. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NDDB proposes to purchase salt direct from the salt producers of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and at what rate;

(c) whether Government are aware of the plight of the salt producers commonly known as 'agaraiyas' in Gujarat;

(d) whether it is a fact that they get only 2 pise per kg of salt from the middle men; and

(e) if so, what steps Government propos to take to improve their lot and see that they get prevailing competitive prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

CRGP insurance claims to farmers in Gujarat

3361. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the "Blitz" of the 13th February, 1988 wherein it has been stated that due to the negligence on the part of the General Insurance Corporation of India the Gujarat Government have been deprived of the revenue to the tune of Rupees 267 crores which they are legitimately entitled to have under the Crop Insurance Scheme.

(b) whether it has also been stated that last year insurance of crops was for Rs. 53 crores and farmers received only Rs. 10 crores as damages;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to compensate the farmers whose crops were damaged due to the natural calamities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government of India is aware of the news item which appeared in "Blitz" dated 13th February, 1988 regarding indemnity claim of Gujarat under the Comprehensive Crop Insuance Scheme (CCIS). However, it is incorrect to say that due to the negligence on the part of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and Gujarat Government the farmers have been deprived of revenue to the tune of Rs. 267 crore. The estimated claims of Kharif 1987 season in the State are likely to be of the order of Rs. 214 crore. The Government of India have not so far received complete yield data as also details of these claims. As regards Kharif

1986, the total sum insured in Gujarat was around Rs 152 crore. Out of these, claims worth Rs 51.18 crore is payable as indemnity cliams. An amount of Rs. 929 crore has already been paid. Funds have since been released to the G.I.C. to pay the remaining claims.

(d) The State Governments have been advised to provide the G.I.C. with complete yield data within a period of 4 months after the end of a given season so that the indemnity claims payable to the insured farmers are settled expeditiously.

Damage to crops due to rains and hailstorm

3362. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been a considerable damage to the crops due to the recent heavy rains and hailstorm in various parts of the country particularly in the Northen States;

(b) if so, the estimated damage to crops; and

(c) whether any compensation has been provided or proposed to be provided to the sufferers and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Information on damages due to recent rains and hailstorm has been received only from Government of Punjab.

(b) and (c). Government of Punjab has reported that average damage is less than 25 per cent in 75 villages covering 5 districts of the State and as such, no case for compensation is made out.

Advertisement of Pan Parag and Pan Masala

3363. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to stop the advertisement of Pan Parag and Pan Masala on T.V. and A.I.R. as it contribute to rise in cancer; and

(b) if *not*, the *reasons* therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No conclusive medical evidence of Pan Parag and Pan Masala contributing to rise in incident of cancer has come to the notice of the Government.

Study on the workers of Glass Factories

3364. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:
DR. R. K. PODDAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the study conducted by the Industrial Toxicology Research Centre on the workers of glass factories; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction on the study report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) A study on 'Morbidity and Socio-economic Conditions of Workers in Glass (Bangle) Industry at Ferozabad' was conducted by the Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow University, Lucknow jointly with the financial assistance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Ministry of